

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

~~One embodiment of the invention provides a~~ A framework for facilitating business processes between multiple trading participants. To utilize the infrastructure each trading participant connects to a centralized process management platform, establishing a trade gateway that acts ~~Once a trading participant connects to the centralized process management platform the trading participant becomes a member of an electronic trading community. Members of the electronic trading community may utilize the process management platform as a conduit for sending and receiving business process data, and the.~~ The process management platform can monitors and manage manages the flow of business process messages and data ~~in order to facilitate and enable successful completion of business processes. Thus, the process management platform acts~~ acting as an online intermediary between ~~for each of the parties involved in a particular business process. In one embodiment of the invention trading participants connect to the process management platform through process gateways. Each process gateway provides an interface for connecting to the process management platform and may be located at a facility associated with the trading participant or at a facility associated with the process management platform.~~ The process management platform is further capable of translating message data between two or more data formats in accordance with two or more standard protocols for conducting business transactions.